

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07920 041422Z

70

ACTION DOTE-00

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R 041300Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8476

UNCLAS TEHRAN 7920

DEPT. PASS DOT FOR FHWA AND TPI - 40

E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJ: FHWA ADVISORY TEAM

IN MEETING AUGUST 3, DOT ASST. SEC. BINDER GAVE MINISTER OF
ROADS SHAHRESTANI LETTER OF JULY 28 FROM FHWA ADMINISTRATOR
TIEMANN CONCERNING FHWA ADVISORY PROJECT. AS BACKGROUND
TO LETTER, BINDER EMPHASIZED (A) THAT DOT/FHWA DEEPLY APPRECIATED
STRONG SUPPORT FOR PROJECT AND TEAM ALWAYS PROVIDED BY MINISTER
AND HIS STAFF, AND (B) THAT DECISION TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWAL
OF TEAM, ARISING OUT OF PROBLEMS IN JURISDICTION OF OTHER
MINISTRIES, WAS REACHED WITH GREATEST RELUCTANCE. SHAHRESTANI
INDICATED HE WOULD STUDY LETTER AND RESPOND, BUT MADE CLEAR
THAT AMENDMENT TO BASIC AGREEMENT PROPOSED BY TIEMANN WAS
NOT WITHIN HIS AUTHORITY TO SIGN. HE STRONGLY ENDORSED PROJECT
AND TEAM, WHICH HE FELT WAS MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION
TO IRANIAN HIGHWAY OBJECTIVES, AND EXPRESSED HOPE QUESTIONS OF
OFFICIAL STATUS COULD BE RESOLVED BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MINISTRIES
CONCERNED. AS TO POSSIBILITY OF IRAN WITHDRAWAL, HE SAID
HE WOULD LIKE TO "PRETEND HE HADN'S HEARD." BINDER ASSURED
HIM THAT DOT/FHWA HOPED SITUATION WOULD NOT COME TO THAT, BUT
LEFT IT CLEAR THAT THE POSSIBILITY WAS VERY MUCH IN THE
PICTURE.

HELMS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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